

Mini Chubby Chernobyl Fly Pattern

By Robert LeClerc



My journey into competitive fly fishing started with discovering the fly patterns I was using as indicator flies were less than successful. In competitive fly fishing, strike indicators are not allowed so “indicator” flies are used. Using a foam salmon fly pattern was too much, a standard Chernobyl fly pattern in size 10 was not enough. When researching new fly patterns to find a fly that would better as an indicator fly yet also work at a fly that fish would hit, I discovered Charlie Craven’s Mini Chubby Chernobyl fly pattern which appears to work well as both an attractor fly and indicator fly. Note: two or three trout actually hit my cork strike indicators during a practice session. I have tied this fly in two versions, Black foam on top and tan foam on bottom and black foam on top and yellow foam on bottom and two sizes, 10, 12. The Stubby T hooks have a very large gap and should provide better hook ups.

Material List:

Hook: Umpqua X Series Stubby T XT050 in sizes 10 and 12, or any dry fly hook with a wide gap.

Thread: 6/0 Tan and Yellow.

Dubbing: for tan flies, tan dubbing, for yellow flies, use yellow dubbing.

Foam: 2 mm foam, top layer is black, bottom layer is tan or yellow depending on which version you are tying.

Wing: Polypropylene Macrame Yarn, pick the color you see best.

Legs: Tan and Black legs or for the yellow version, yellow and black.

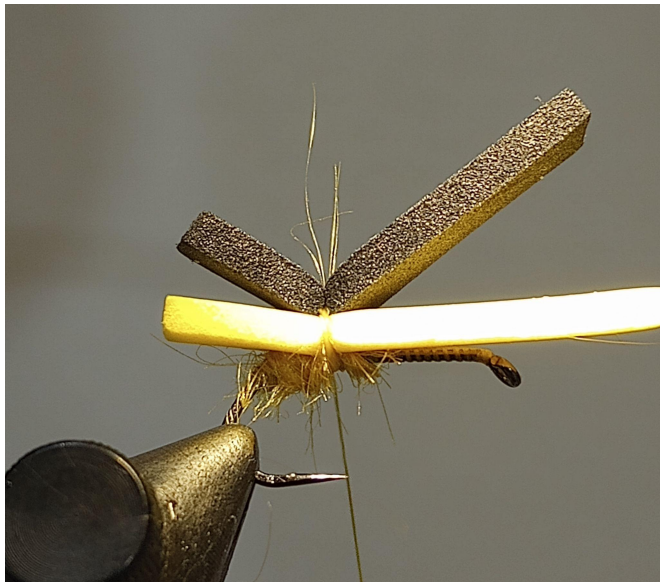
Also required: Superglue and AGRA (fly floatant)

Tying Instructions:

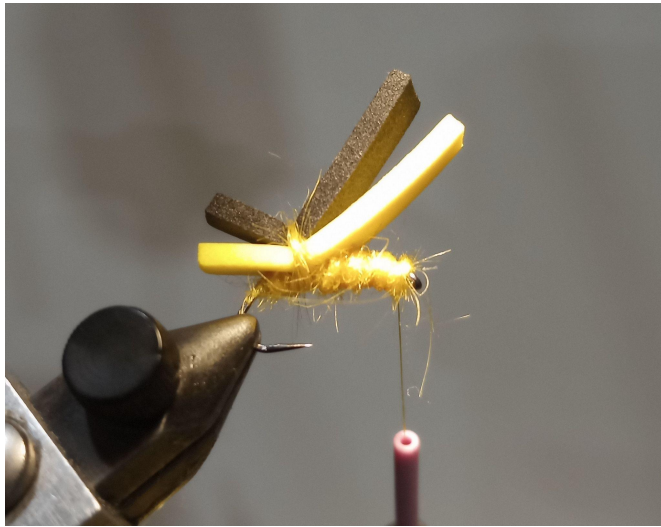
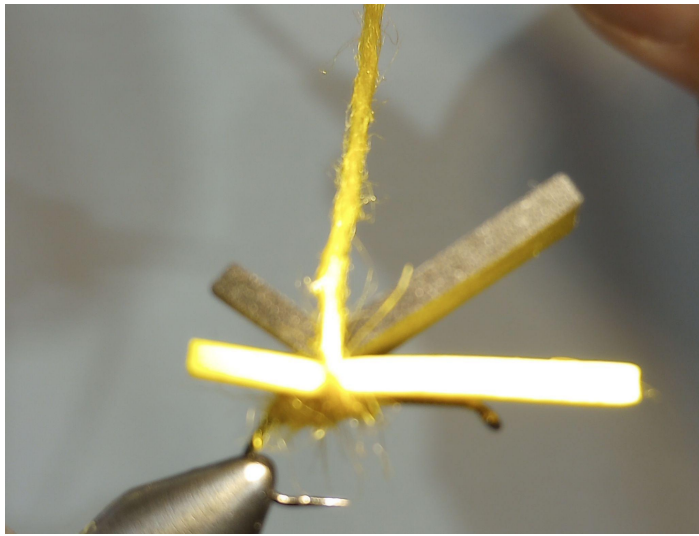
1. Debarb hook and mount in vise, attach thread and wrap to the bend of the hook.
2. Apply dubbing and wrap forward for $\frac{1}{3}$ of hook shank, move thread back to bend of the hook, in the middle of dubbing.



3. Prepare foam strips by cutting strips equal to hook gap. Prepare both colors and stack black foam on top. Do not glue foam strips together at this stage.
4. Apply superglue to the top of the dubbing.
5. Apply foam strips to the top of the dubbing, foam should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ length of hook shank over the bend of the hook. Wrap 5 to 6 times over foam.



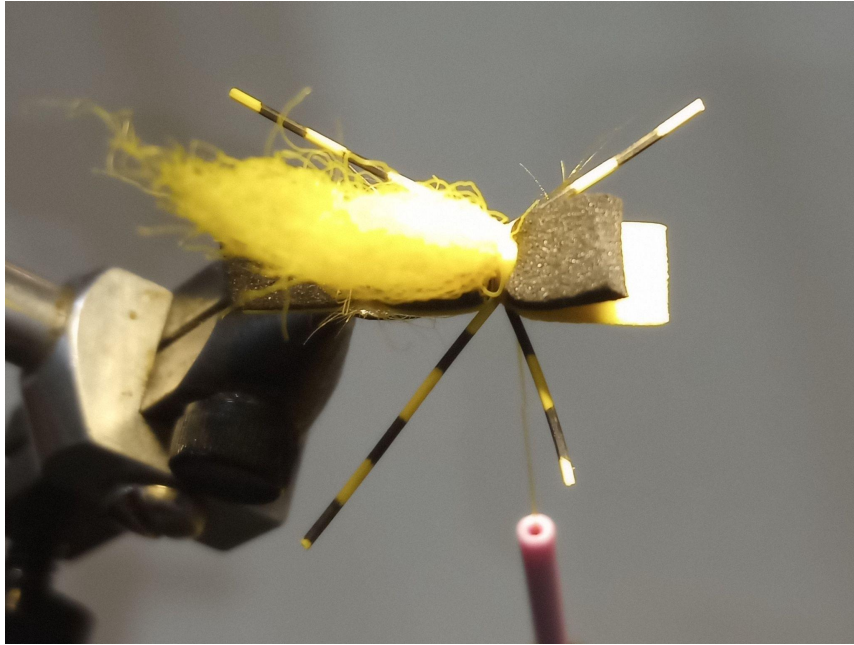
6. Apply dubbing to thread. Place two wraps of dubbing over foam tie in point, then lift remaining foam strips up and dub forward to just behind hook eye.



7. Pull foam strips forward and tie in with 5-6 wraps of thread.
8. Prepare the wing yarn by combing out, then tie in at the front foam tie in point. After tying in the wing, pull the wing to the rear and place wraps to hold it in place.



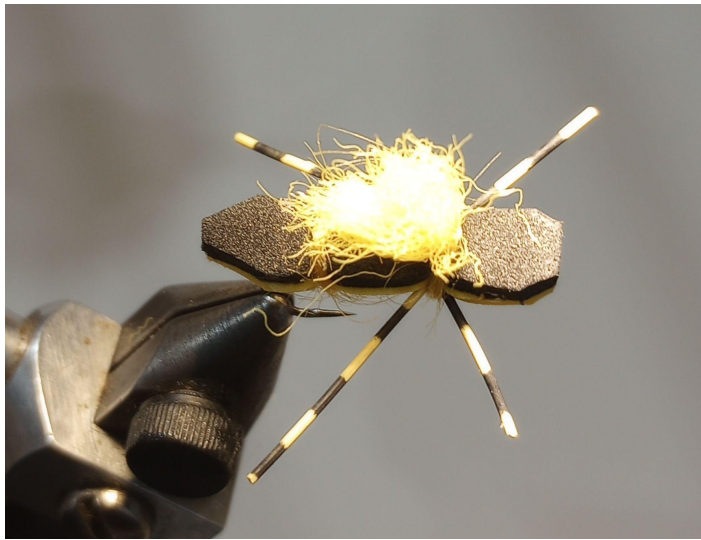
9. Tie in a single leg on each side of the body.



10. Apply dubbing to thread and apply two wraps over the tie in point for the wings and legs. Whip finish and tie off thread, then trim thread. Apply head cement.



11. Apply superglue between the foam layers and press together. After curing, trim the front and rear to shape. Trim legs to shape. Trim the wing to about one hook shank length long.



Since I will be using these flies as indicator flies, I apply AGRA liquid to the flies. AGRA is a float enhancer and let dry for 24 hours. Fish off a dropper line or tie the main leader to the eye of the hook and tie the dropper tippet to the hook bend.

To tie the flies in larger sizes, size 6 and 8, use 3mm foam in place of the 2mm foam. At the rear tie down point, add another wing and another set of legs.

Tightlines.